

2008 Annual Summer Meeting
Catherine Jarvis – State of the Society

It seems like it was five minutes ago that I was standing in this very spot preparing to start the year as president of the society. However, even though it seems like only a short amount of time has passed, I continue to be amazed by all of the things that get accomplished every year. The productivity and enthusiasm of the pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students and pharmacists who choose to be active in their profession in Colorado are truly remarkable.

A year ago, I outlined five initiatives that I wanted the society work on and I am pleased to report that we made progress on all five:

- Involvement of pharmacists and the society in emergency preparedness in Colorado
 - The society sponsored emergency preparedness programming at annual meetings over the last year
 - Within the last couple of months, the society signed a memorandum of understanding with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) that outlines how pharmacists will participate in an emergency situation and describes training that the CDPHE will provide to Colorado pharmacists.
- Reimbursement for cognitive pharmacy services. This initiative is related to House Bill 1021 that was passed by the Colorado legislature in 2007. This year, the society played a major role in working with the government staff person to outline and set the structure and policies and procedures for the program. The society also played a big role in recruiting pharmacists to participate in the program. Even though pharmacy reimbursement is relatively low, I believe that pharmacist participation is vitally important to show that pharmacists are willing and able to provide these services. This is our opportunity to show what we can do.
- Increased participation of pharmacists from outside of the Denver metropolitan area. There were two individuals from rural Colorado communities on the society's board of directors election ballot for the upcoming year, one of whom one the seat on the board as an independent pharmacist. The incoming president of our society spend 26 years of her pharmacy career in the town of Holyoke, population 2000, on the eastern plains of Colorado and continues to practice outside of the metropolitan area in Greeley. I believe it is critically important for the society to be inclusive of all pharmacists in Colorado and not focus solely on the Denver metropolitan area.
- I asked a few of the past presidents of the society to work on a plan to keep past presidents more involved in the society and they outlined a strategy with proposals to keep not only past presidents, but also past board members, involved after their official terms end.
- My final goal was to ask the society to set a good example as health care professionals and make a bigger effort toward eating healthfully at annual meetings and board meetings. Despite the fact that I received a ton of ribbing about this initiative ("President Jarvis is going to make us eat only fiber cracker and vegetables at meetings"), everyone was wonderfully on board with this endeavor. Our executive director, Val Kalnins, made a big effort to have healthy meals at all society events that were really great.

In addition to the initiatives that were on my personal agenda, the society had many other great accomplishments over the past year. The society:

- Completed a major every third year strategic planning effort last summer with participation from all board members and using an outside facilitator.
- Now hosts a regular feature on the channel 9 "Pharmacists Line 9" taking hundreds of calls at morning or evening sessions every few months.

- Actively increased pharmacist participation in the 9 Health Fair.
- Made many valuable continuing education (CE) offerings, with special thanks to Mary Johnson, the chair of our CE committee and our executive director.
- Initiated a task force to review the practice of pharmacists administering immunizations.
- Made a plan to combine the University of Colorado Denver - School of Pharmacy Professional Career Fair with the society's annual fall meeting in fall 2008. Regis School of Pharmacy students will be invited when students are enrolled in their program.
- Made a plan for regular financial audits of the society's status every three years.
- Had many active academies including the health systems pharmacists academy headed by Andrew Bjork and the technician academy headed by Gralyn Farris. A new student academy was formed by proactive students, Lam Nguyen and Dan Crona.
- Continues to have tremendous success in both the state and national legislative arenas thanks to the unceasing and tireless efforts of our executive director and our lobbyist, Elsie Lacey. Very positive accomplishments have been achieved that are too numerous for me to mention here but are outlined regularly in communications to members.
- Made big gains in membership. The society's membership currently exists at an all time high of 788 members. Huge contributions were made to this number when Mary Newell negotiated renewal membership for the King Soopers and Safeway union pharmacists, representing more that 200 memberships and when the student academy was formed, representing more than 100 memberships.

It is important to note, however, that there are about 2500 to 3000 practicing pharmacists in Colorado and only about 800 are members of the society. I'm going to go back to a statement that I made at the beginning of this presentation because I chose my words very carefully: "The productivity and enthusiasm of the pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students and pharmacists **who choose to be active** in their profession in Colorado are truly remarkable." A small proportion of practicing pharmacists choose to be members of the society. Of the 800 members, only a small proportion of that number chooses to be active in their profession and if you are one of those individuals, it is our obligation to recruit others to be active in the profession. Just think what could be accomplished for this profession if more pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students and pharmacists were actively involved.

In closing I would like to thank my very active and committed colleagues who volunteered their time over the past year to serve on the board of directors and I would like to extend a special thanks on behalf of all Colorado pharmacy to Val and Daina Kalnins for their unwavering and valuable commitment to the profession of pharmacy in this state.